

ZOOGRAM

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore



SPRING 2018

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The Zoo supports and participates in conservation projects all over the globe.

It's time for another lovely spring season here at the Zoo. For me, this spring is especially welcome not only because the frigid winter weather is behind us but also because I am celebrating 10 years as the President & CEO of The Maryland Zoo!

As I look back, I am so proud of the things we have accomplished together these past 10 years. From the birth of Samson in March 2008, we have moved forward with the opening of new exhibits and experiences such as the Giraffe Feeding Station, *Prairie Dog Town*, the Jones Falls Zephyr, the return of bobcats and flamingos, as well as the exceptional, award-winning *Penguin Coast*. Through all of the changes, we have remained focused on delivering exceptional care for the animals, a great guest experience for each of our visitors, and opportunity for many who can't make it to the Zoo to experience what we have to offer through our interactive and educational Zoomobile programs.

As you know, conservation remains central to our mission, and in this issue of *Zoogram* you will read several stories with a common theme: reaching out to make a difference for wildlife. The Zoo supports and participates in conservation projects all over the globe. Recently, we sent two staff members to South Africa to participate in a keeper exchange program at SANCCOB, a long-time partner and leader in efforts to save endangered African penguins. Check out their story, as well as one highlighting teen volunteers at the Zoo who are not only training to be tomorrow's leaders but acting as today's leaders. They are an inspiration to all of us, as are our young partners from the Branches program who have been busily tending the Zoo's very first Learning Garden alongside our naturalist, Peter Martin.

That garden will soon be in bloom, as will plants and trees all over the Zoo. We can say goodbye to winter now, but before we do I want to give special thanks to all the hardy guests who visit during the winter season. I know I have enjoyed watching the grizzly bears experience their first Maryland winter, and am always glad to see people exploring the Zoo no matter what the weather.

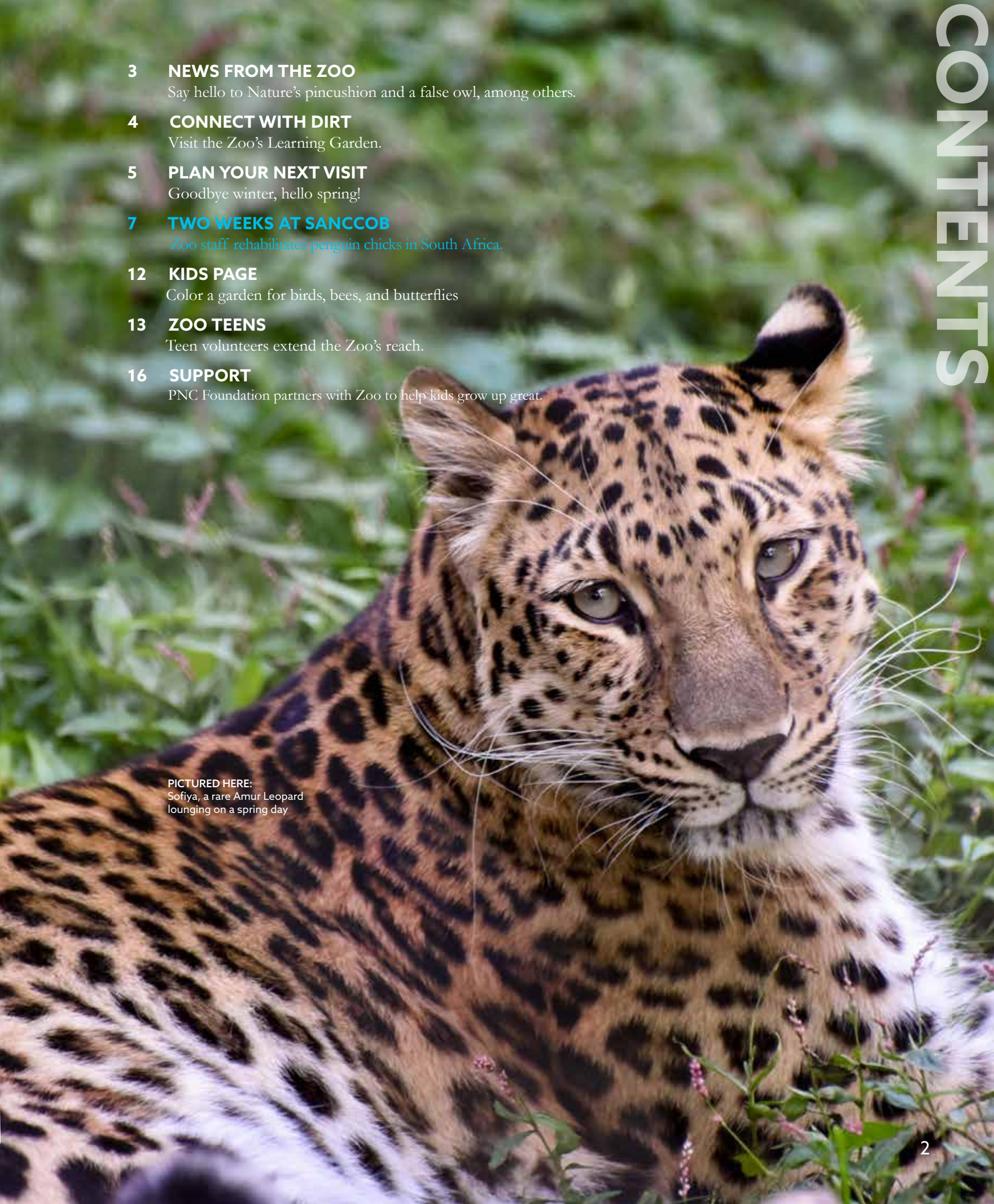
Mark your calendars now for some of our many upcoming events and programs, and I'll look forward to seeing you at the Zoo this spring!

Don Hutchinson
President/CEO



- 3 NEWS FROM THE ZOO**
Say hello to Nature's pincushion and a false owl, among others.
- 4 CONNECT WITH DIRT**
Visit the Zoo's Learning Garden.
- 5 PLAN YOUR NEXT VISIT**
Goodbye winter, hello spring!
- 7 TWO WEEKS AT SANCCOB**
Zoo staff rehabilitates penguin chicks in South Africa.
- 12 KIDS PAGE**
Color a garden for birds, bees, and butterflies
- 13 ZOO TEENS**
Teen volunteers extend the Zoo's reach.
- 16 SUPPORT**
PNC Foundation partners with Zoo to help kids grow up great.

PICTURED HERE:
Sofiya, a rare Amur Leopard
lounging on a spring day





SITATUNGA CALVES

With the arrival of three new calves last fall, the Zoo's sitatunga herd is now a dozen strong. A male calf was born in September and two females were born within a week of each other in October. All three are doing well and are exploring the great outdoors alongside their mothers. The three births came at the recommendation of the AZA's Species Survival Plan (SSP) for sitatunga, a species of African antelope native to swamps, marshes, and floodplains.

PREHENSILE TAILED PORCUPINE

Take a look at "Rico," the Zoo's prehensile-tailed porcupine, and you'll know why his kind is sometimes referred to as "Nature's pincushion." Covered in short, thick, two-toned quills, with a tail made for gripping and hanging, these nocturnal South American animals spend most of their time up in the trees feeding on leaves, flowers, shoots, and roots.

Rico was born at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. in February of 2017 and came to Baltimore late last summer to join the ranks of the Zoo's Animal Ambassadors.



TAWNY FROGMOUTH

Australia is known for a whole host of weird and wonderful animals not found anywhere else in the world. Add to that list the tawny frogmouth, a "false owl" that resembles an owl but is actually kin to kingfishers and kookaburras. It has a wide, gaping beak for catching insects—hence its name. A young tawny frogmouth hatched last year at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle is one of several new Animal Ambassadors now settling in at the Zoo's Animal Embassy.

VON DER DECKEN

Along with the porcupine and tawny frogmouth, the Zoo is proud to introduce two young Von der Decken's hornbills as its latest Animal Ambassadors, sure to capture the attention and imagination of Zoo guests and ZooMobile audiences. The hornbill siblings hatched at the Zoo last fall. You can see their parents in the African Aviary when you visit! These small members of the hornbill family have black and white feathers and distinctive hooked beaks and are known as energetic and agile flyers.



CONNECT *with* DIRT

In the final line of *Candide*, an influential novel known to generations of high school students, the wayward main character concludes that "we must cultivate our own garden." That could mean many things, but one interpretation seems obvious: take care of what you can and don't worry, it's okay to start small so long as you start.

This is a hopeful message for anyone who cares about the environment and wildlife but feels overwhelmed by the scale of threats to both. It is hard to tackle a globe's worth of trouble. It is possible, though, to tend your own garden, literally and figuratively. So start there.

No matter how big or small, a garden slows you down. Tending a garden makes you more aware of the natural world around you – the sun on your back, the breeze in your face, the dirt between your fingers. It also focuses your attention not just on the plants that you're trying to grow but on the many animals that inhabit a garden. You'll notice slugs and earthworms in the soil. You might encounter a toad or salamander. You'll see bees buzzing around flowers and birds settling on branches.

Instead of dismissing or disrupting these animals, you might wonder what they are doing, why they are in the garden, and how in their own way they are part of it.

A garden also gives you a chance to make good choices for wildlife and the environment, putting you on a path to environmental stewardship. We all want this but sometimes don't know where to begin. Put a compost bin in your garden to turn plant clippings into soil. Plant native flowers that attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Add a bee box or bird house. Gather rainwater in a barrel so that you can water your garden while recycling a precious resource.

We're doing all these things and more in the Zoo's Learning Garden beside Creature Encounters. Now a vibrant outdoor classroom, it was planted in the summer of 2016 by Zoo Naturalist Peter Martin and teens participating in Branches, a Parks & People program that helps Baltimore City high school students transition to green careers. So how does our garden grow? Stop by, take a look, and gather ideas to take home with you!



PLAN

YOUR NEXT VISIT

The flowers are blooming and spring is on its way, so let's turn the page on winter and embrace a new season of wildlife wonder at the Zoo. Join us this spring for a day with the animals, guided strolls, campouts, after-hours art, Brew at the Zoo, and so much more!

While planning your next visit, please check the Zoo's website – www.MarylandZoo.org – for timely updates on events, programs, exhibits, and improvements.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Goat Corral: Brush, pet, or just visit the goats.

Creature Encounters: Experience wildlife up close with live animals and hands-on activities at the Zoo's outdoor education center.

Education Stations: Engage in fun learning activities throughout the Zoo.

Penguin Feedings: Talk with a Zoo educator about black-footed penguins during twice daily feedings.

Keeper Chats: Find out what it's like to care for animals at the Zoo.

Jones Falls Zephyr: All aboard the Zoo train. Open daily, weather permitting. \$

Carousel: Take a spin on our vintage carousel. \$

Giraffe Feeding Station: Up close and personal with giraffes. \$

\$: fee to participate

MARCH

Stroller Safaris

Stories, songs, and strolls for toddlers.

March 3 & 22
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
\$ R

Zoo Bloom/Farm Day

Springtime is in the air.

March 10
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Animal Craft Safaris

Creative animal fun for kids 4+

March 15 & 25
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Breakfast with the Chimps

Start your day in a wildly memorable way.

March 17
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R **SOLD OUT**

Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Bring out your inner artist.

March 21
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
\$ R

Breakfast with the Penguins

No tux required!

March 24
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R **SOLD OUT**

Yoga at the Zoo

Sunrise stretching at Penguin Coast

March 25
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R **SOLD OUT**

Mary Sue Candies Bunny Bonanzoo

Let the bunny games begin!

March 30-31, April 1
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Hop on over and join the fun.

March 31
8:30a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R

APRIL

Stroller Safaris

Why walk when you can ride?

April 7 & 26
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
\$ R

All About Bees Workshop

Meet the Zoo's apiarists!

April 8
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Farmyard Meeting Barn
\$ R

Breakfast with the Penguins

Say good morning to the colony.

April 14
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R

Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Have a cocktail, paint a masterpiece.

April 18
5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Animal Craft Safaris

Kids get creative with animal crafts.

April 19 & 29
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Party for the Planet

Celebrate Earth Day at the Zoo.

April 21
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Yoga at the Zoo

Where better to strike an animal pose?

April 22
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R **SOLD OUT**

Breakfast with the Bears

Everybody dig in!

April 29
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R

MAY

Stroller Safaris

Fun for the three-and-under crowd

May 5 & 24
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
\$ R

Yoga at the Zoo

Can you say downward dog?

May 12
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R

Breakfasts with Penguins

Sip coffee, sight penguins.

May 13
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R

Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Join in after-hours art.

May 16
5:30pm-8pm
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Animal Craft Safaris

Animal wonder through crafts and stories

May 17 & 27
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Breakfast with the Giraffes

Drink a tall latte alongside tall companions.

May 19
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
\$ R

Sip & Stroll (21+)

An after-hours Zoo Architecture & History tour

May 19
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
\$ R

Brew at the Zoo

The wildest fundraiser in town! Unlimited beer samplings, a complimentary tasting glass, and admission to the Zoo.

Dates: May 26 & 27
Hours: 1 p.m.–7 p.m.
Prices: \$15–\$75



JUNE

Stroller Safaris

Tour the Zoo with your toddler.

June 2 & 21
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
\$ R

Photography Workshops (18+)

Join photo experts for a day of wildlife photography.

June 2 & 3
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
\$ R

Breakfast with "Celebrity Birds" **NEW**

Meet and greet the Ravens mascots over breakfast.

June 9
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
\$ R

Zoo Snooze Adult Overnight

Campout for the 21+ crowd

June 9-10
6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Bring a friend and create your own fun.

June 13
5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Animal Craft Safaris

Story time, art time, animal time for kids.

June 14 & 24
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Wild About Giraffes Day

A day devoted to the world's tallest animal.

June 16
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where the Wild Things Art KIDS Paint Night

Let the kids paint!

June 20
5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Penguin Education Center
\$ R

Wild About Enrichment Day

What is it and why does it matter?

June 23
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Breakfast with Giraffes

Enjoy your eggs in tall company.

June 24
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
\$ R

Yoga at the Zoo

Calm your mind, strengthen your body.

June 24, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
June 28, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
\$ R

Breakfast with the Penguins

Tabletop deliciousness at Penguin Coast

June 30
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
\$ R



TWO WEEKS AT SANCCOB

By Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor

On the morning of November 13, 2017, Jen Kottyan was not at the Zoo in her usual role as Avian Collection and Conservation Manager, overseeing the care of more than 200 birds representing 50 different species. Instead, she was on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, dressed in oilskins and rubber boots, avoiding the aggression of one particular young, wild bird.

About the size of a football and not much heavier, this bird—an African penguin—was asserting himself as the undisputed alpha bird of Pen Two. Kottyan was trying to tend to him and dozens of other juvenile African penguins in the pen, but he wasn't making it easy. "No matter what we were doing, he would come barreling out at us, biting our hands," recalls Kottyan, "and he would go for the [unprotected] folds of skin. You would feed him first because you knew you had to feed him first, otherwise he would beat you up a little bit."

PARTNERING TO SAVE AFRICAN PENGUINS

Kottyan met this penguin and dozens more while volunteering last fall at SANCCOB, an internationally renowned seabird rescue and rehabilitation facility headquartered in Cape Town, South Africa. She and Maryland Zookeeper Maria Luongo traveled there as emissaries of the Zoo to participate in a two-week keeper exchange program benefiting SANCCOB's Chick Bolstering Project. Such an exchange between the Zoo and SANCCOB is a natural fit, given their long history of mutual support, collaboration, and dedication to endangered African penguins.

"This was a chance to protect penguins in a way we hadn't before, and to learn new skills in the process."

– Mike McClure, General Curator, Maryland Zoo

Since its founding in 1968, SANCCOB arguably has done more than any other entity in the world to reverse the decline of wild African penguins. Meanwhile, in about the same span of time, The Maryland Zoo has established one of the most successful African penguin breeding programs in the world and developed protocols to guide the management and care of the largest colony of African penguins in North America. The two institutions are long-time conservation partners.

BOLSTERING CHICKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

In Kottyan's expert opinion, feistiness will serve the alpha bird of Pen Two well. "He'll probably make it out in the wild," she notes. The Chick Bolstering Project guarantees that many others will as well. Each year during "chick season," which runs from about October through January, SANCCOB takes in hundreds of abandoned African penguin chicks and eggs. Park rangers monitoring colonies along the

South African coast identify those in need of rescue. Most have been abandoned by parents who have gone into abnormally early molt and cannot hunt fish or feed themselves or their young during this time. While vigilant park rangers intercede before the onset of major health issues, the abandoned chicks still arrive at SANCCOB in weakened condition, and it takes many hands to nurse them back to health and return them to their colonies.

For such an influential organization, though, SANCCOB is surprisingly lean. It employs only a few full-time staff members who work out of tight and modest quarters. The main building is functional but not fancy, with cinder block walls, a concrete slab floor, and a multi-purpose feel to every room. It contains, among other things, a nursery and an intensive care unit for very young, injured, or ill birds. Outdoors, birds in various stages of recovery are housed in separate areas. Pen One is for gulls, cormorants, and other flighted birds. Pen Two is for African penguin chicks gaining size and strength. Pen Three is for adult penguins and older juveniles known as "blues" that are preparing for release.

Daily operations at SANCCOB are smooth and efficient, guided by process and protocol, but they rely heavily on volunteer service. This is especially true during chick season, when zoo keepers from around the world fly in to participate in the Keeper Exchange Program. Kottyan and Luongo arrived with years of penguin experience between them and a shared desire to contribute to one of the most successful wildlife conservation initiatives on the planet.

Since its inception in 2006, the Chick Bolstering Project has released nearly 4,000 African penguin chicks back into the wild. Between 2006 and 2012, the Project had a success rate of 77%, admitting 2,535 chicks and successfully rehabilitating and releasing 1,962. Research has shown that the released chicks fare just as well in the wild as their naturally born counterparts. Each chick that makes it to adulthood is precious to a population that is precariously low and in fast decline.



Clockwise from top: Kottyan and Luongo tube-feed penguin chicks in Pen Two; Luongo holds a penguin while waiting for its status card to be updated; Kottyan shifts a penguin from Pen Three into the pool for swim time; 20 minutes of swim time for these penguins and then a new group will take to the water!

“NOW YOU’RE GOOD TO GO!”

While in South Africa, Kottyan and Luongo began each work day at 8 a.m. sharp with a morning meeting. They would receive their assignments, suit up in personal protective gear, check out necessary supplies and equipment from “General”—the hub of the SANCCOB operation—and get to work. They performed a wide variety of tasks but none more important than tube-feeding chicks. “It’s a quick and easy way to feed birds that allows them to gain a lot of weight fast,” explains Luongo. “You can deposit food directly into their stomachs in about five seconds and it’s quick and painless for the birds.” Over the

to swim, and helped out in countless other ways. Their visit culminated in the release of nine juvenile penguins on Boulders Beach. Park rangers escorted the team down to the beach where Kottyan and Luongo helped tip the penguins out of their carriers. “These birds started as chicks at SANCCOB, and some even from eggs,” says Luongo, “so they weren’t sure where they were. They were really unsure what to do. But finally they all went into the water and swam out to sea, and it was really awesome to witness.”

WORKING TOWARD SHARED GOALS

On their last day at SANCCOB, Kottyan and Luongo spoke to staff and other volunteers about the Zoo’s



Kottyan prepares for release of penguins on Boulders Beach

course of two weeks, Kottyan and Luongo went from never tube-feeding a bird before to tube-feeding a total of 300 to 400 birds each.

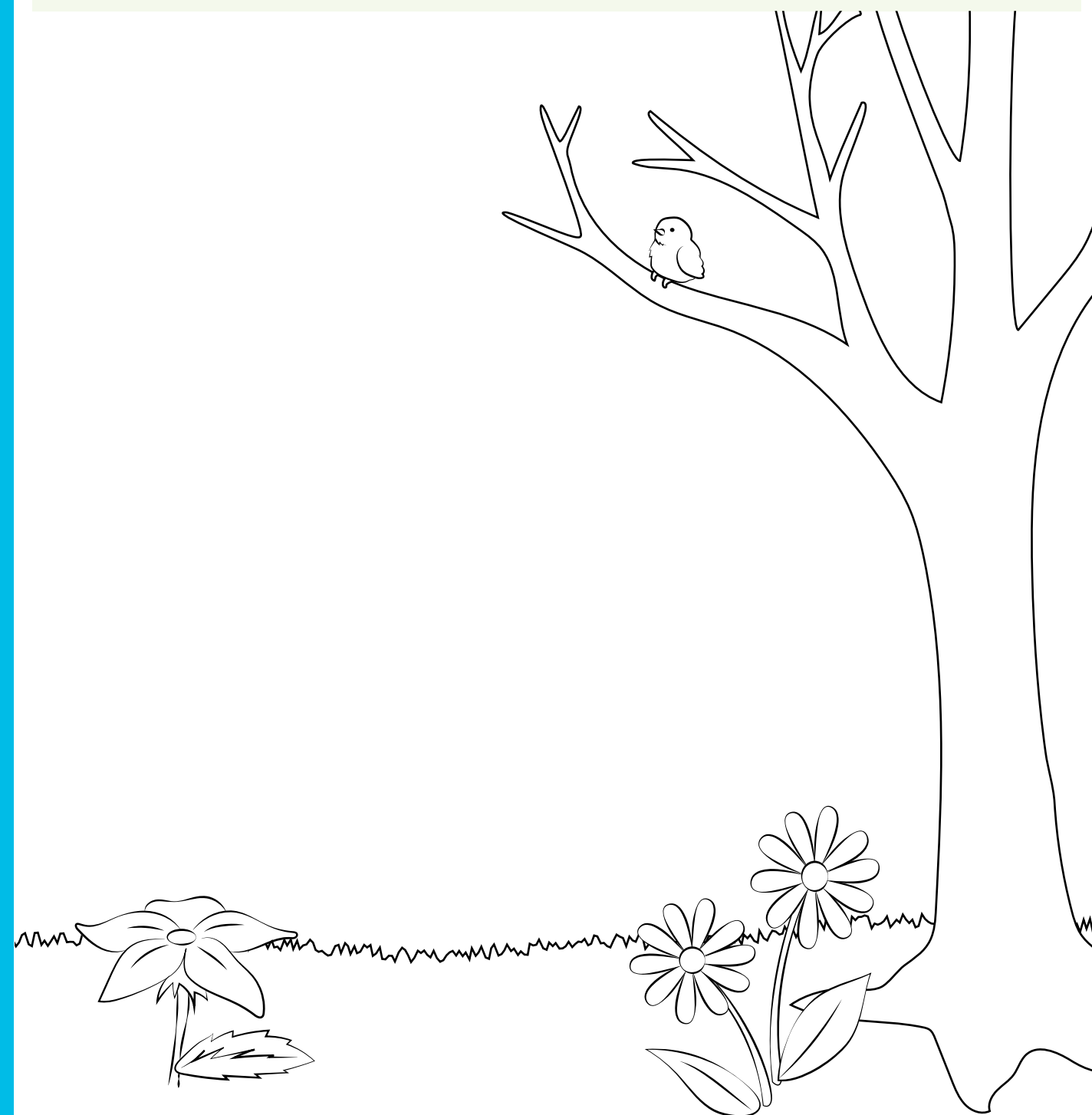
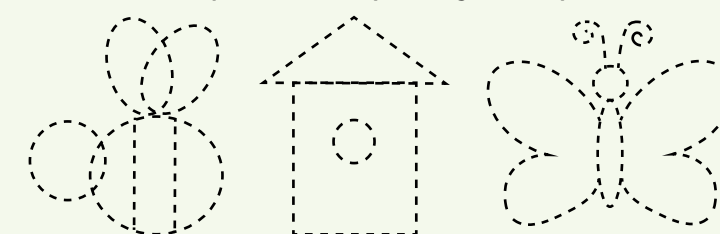
It’s all-hands-on-deck at SANCCOB and there is much to learn, but Kottyan and Luongo managed every assignment like the pros that they are. In addition to tube-feeding, they fed out hundreds of pounds of fish, mastered the complicated logistics of “nebulizing” chicks (which entails grouping them properly and giving medication by mist), oversaw swim time for dozens of chicks that really didn’t want

African penguin program and how zoos in general impact wildlife conservation. They underscored shared goals and described the high level of coordination within the AZA as well as the careful management that goes into maintaining genetically healthy populations of African penguins and other animals. “Our audience asked a lot of questions and was very impressed,” says Kottyan. “I think they walked away with a better understanding and appreciation for the zoos that are coming there and working with them.” Their message was well received, and their two weeks at SANCCOB was very well spent.

A GARDEN FOR BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES

Birds, bees, and butterflies are welcome in a garden. Get out your colored pencils and make this garden wildlife friendly! You should know that bees and butterflies are attracted to brightly colored flowers, and butterflies especially like flowers that they can land on. Birds may need a place to take cover. Color in the flowers and then add bees, butterflies, and a bird house to your drawing.

You can practice first by tracing our simple outlines:



ZOO TEENS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Archie standing at the entrance to the Jijamata Udyan Zoo in Mumbai, India.

by Sarah Evans

It was Archie Swaminathan's second day volunteering at the Zoo and she was nervous. On the way to her assigned station, her mind was racing. What if guests asked her questions that she couldn't answer? What if nobody stopped? What if kids didn't enjoy her activity? She set up her table, laid out biofacts and an animal trivia game, and sat down to wait. Soon, a little girl approached with her mother and wanted to play the game. Archie talked with both for a few minutes before they continued on with their visit. Archie didn't expect to see the little girl again, but soon she was back!

"I was so happy that she wanted to come back," remembers Archie. "Her mom told me that she had been so excited to return to my table after they were done looking at the animals. She told me how happy her daughter was after playing the game. That made me smile. It made me realize how important my work, and all of the volunteers' work, is at the Zoo. That little girl gave me the confidence and sense of accomplishment that I needed."

VOLUNTEERING AT THE ZOO

That was two years ago, when Archie was new to high school and to the Zoo Teen program. Today, she is a sophomore at Marriotts Ridge High School and a seasoned interpreter whose early trepidation has faded away. "Using biofacts, I talk with guests about animals but I also try to engage them in the bigger message, which is conservation," she says. "I try to tie in all of the information with what we can do to help animals survive in the wild. Conservation is extremely important, and by spreading awareness, we can make a difference."

Claire Wayner can appreciate those first-day jitters because she had them as well. Now a senior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Claire began volunteering at the Zoo in 2015. She, too, is passionate about wildlife and the environment and knew that interacting with Zoo guests on these topics would be rewarding, even if nerve-racking at first. "My ultimate career aspiration is to work in local and state environmental policy," she explains, "so I needed to be a good public speaker and to develop what I thought. A Zoo Teen is doing that every hour of the shift. You have to be able to interact with guests, have good social skills, and educate."

Archie and Claire are part of the Zoo's youth volunteer program, which has attracted an estimated 1,400 teens since its inception in 1982. "The teen years are a time when people have some freedom to explore what they love and become the person they want to be," notes Kerrie Kovaleski, Director of Volunteer Programs. "Our program gives them a place to do that, surrounded by peers with similar values and led by adults who have dedicated their professional lives to conservation and education." As Claire suggests, the program also gives teens a chance to find their own voices on issues that matter to them.

How they use those voices will vary from person to person, but Archie and Claire represent something true of all Zoo Teens: they are passionate, they are eager to make a difference, and they aren't inclined to wait.

TAKING THE ZOO TO MUMBAI

Last summer, Archie traveled to India with her family and, while in Mumbai, met with staff at the Jijamata Udyan Zoo. Prompted by a conversation with her cousin who lives in Mumbai, she set up the meeting months earlier by phoning the education director there. "I saw opportunities to collaborate and work with the people at the Mumbai zoo," she says. "In the beginning, it seemed impossible to fly across the world for this kind of outreach. However, when there's a will, there's a way!"

Archie arrived at the zoo in Mumbai with a PowerPoint presentation and a box of education materials. She expected to make a few suggestions about basic public programming that the education director could implement at his zoo. She ended up spending multiple days with him and other staff, sharing ideas and doing presentations for visiting students, teachers, and college professors about what she does as a youth volunteer at The Maryland Zoo.

The Mumbai zoo is one of the oldest in India and shows its age. Despite a brand new penguin exhibit and an ambitious master plan, the zoo is short-staffed and under-resourced and faces decades' worth of deferred maintenance. Archie acknowledges its room for improvement, but not for lack of commitment on the part of its staff.

"The education director is one of the most passionate educators I have met in my life," she says. "The number of projects on his desk far exceeds the number he can take on, but that does not discourage him." And while there are stark differences between the two zoos in terms of infrastructure and operations, Archie notes that they are both interested in "protecting wildlife and reaching out to the public to spread awareness and help advocate on issues that matter."

Archie found an equally receptive audience in the local teachers who attended her presentations. "I set up a table, had an education material box with me, and basically ran through the process of how volunteers [at the Zoo] do

public programs,” recalls Archie. “The teachers were so engrossed in the presentation that many in the back were actually standing up to get a better look at what was happening. They asked many questions and several tried the activities themselves. All were eager to learn more about the work that I do at The Maryland Zoo and about the issues that we advocate for here.”

TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION

While Archie has channeled her Zoo experience into a transcontinental collaboration, Claire has connected hers to community action closer to home. In 2016, she and her best friend, Mercedes Thompson, co-founded Baltimore Beyond Plastic, a student-led campaign to reduce plastic pollution in Baltimore and the state of Maryland. “What I do at the Zoo helps inform me,” says Claire. “You remind yourself of the impact that plastic pollution has on humans, on wildlife, and on the environment, and that motivates me.”

Claire’s focus on plastic pollution began with Styrofoam lunch trays. “Every day at lunch we’re given Styrofoam trays,” says Claire, “and every day just at our school we’re throwing away 1,500 trays.” Soon she and Mercedes were seeing Styrofoam everywhere—in school, in public markets, littering the Inner Harbor, and overflowing trash dumpsters. They decided to do something about it. “We had a story to tell about our city’s obsession with Styrofoam,” says Claire, “and we needed to share it with our legislators in order to ban it.”

Over the past two years, Claire and Mercedes have lobbied city and state legislators, organized student rallies, presented at nearly two dozen schools, participated in youth summits, and transformed themselves into sophisticated public policy advocates. They celebrated a major victory in January, when Baltimore City Schools announced its decision to ban foam lunch trays. They continue to organize and to press for a state-wide ban on Styrofoam and a city-wide ban on both Styrofoam and plastic bags.

ENCOURAGING CONVERSATION

As spring arrives, Claire will be gearing up to graduate from Poly and matriculate a few months later at Princeton University. Meanwhile, Archie will be back on grounds at the Zoo, talking with guests, piquing their curiosity, and inviting them to participate in education activities. Like many youth volunteers at the Zoo then and now, Claire and Archie have found their voices and are using them well.

Left: Claire and Mercedes with Baltimore City Councilman Zeke Cohen; Below: Students rallying for styrofoam ban outside Baltimore City Hall.



CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH ANIMALS
SPARKS CURIOSITY

“Can anyone tell me how we all got here today?” asks Kristin VanBuskirk, an educator on the Zoo’s Outreach team.

Thirty preschoolers stare back at her, befuddled.

“Did we flap our wings and fly into the room?” she asks. “Did we swim?” She waves her arms and makes perfect fish lips.

“No, we walked!” the kids answer, laughing.

And so begins “Waddle and Wiggle,” a fun and educational foray into animal movement. Eager young participants experience the world through not only the limbs but also the eyes, ears, and noses of different animals. First, they try to stand on one leg like a flamingo, hop like a rabbit, and waddle like a penguin, all without accidentally bumping a neighbor or succumbing to a fit of giggles. Then they sit in quiet amazement as VanBuskirk and Melissa Showalter, a fellow Zoo educator, bring out three live animals for them to meet—a snake, a rabbit, and a penguin. The children observe, describe, compare, contrast, and imagine what it must be like to be such amazing animals.

On this particular day, VanBuskirk and Showalter are visiting preschoolers at a public elementary school on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Starting in 2010, the Zoo’s Outreach team has visited the Eastern Shore to deliver programs to early childhood learning facilities that might not be able to get to the Zoo or afford a visit from ZooMobile on their own. The trips are supported by a grant from the PNC Foundation’s Grow up Great initiative.

“PNC recognizes the role kindergarten readiness plays in the wellbeing of local children, their families and ultimately, our economy,” said Laura Gamble, PNC regional president for Greater Maryland. “By preparing our youngest citizens for educational success, we help build a solid foundation for the future of this region.”

“Waddle and Wiggle” and other ZooMobile programs designed for preschoolers support early childhood learning skills in many areas, including language, literacy, math, and science. The programs also foster empathy for animals, an essential skill for future stewards of the planet to have. If you want people to change their behavior in support of wildlife or the environment, research suggests that knowledge is not enough; it must be combined with empathy.

Every day of the year, at the Zoo and in the community, Zoo educators facilitate meaningful encounters with wildlife for thousands of people, young and old, while also enhancing children’s learning and development through thoughtful and engaging programming. We are grateful for the support of PNC’s Grow up Great initiative in helping us to fulfill our education mission.

To learn more about the Zoo’s education programs and opportunities to participate, please visit our website – www.MarylandZoo.org – and click on the Education tab.

ZOO SUMMER CAMP

Looking for a fun summer adventure? Sign your kids up for Zoo Summer Camp! And while you're at it, sign yourself up!



If your kids are animal lovers, then they'll love the chance to spend a week at the Zoo learning about animals, their habitats, and the people who are working to protect them. Zoo Camp is open to children entering grades 3-9 in the fall of 2018. Each session is one week long and geared to a specific age group.

ZOO SUMMER CAMP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Small-group setting
- Immersive tours of the Zoo
- Conversations with animal experts
- Behind-the-scenes experiences
- Up-close visits with Animal Ambassadors
- Feeding giraffes and petting goats
- Wildlife-themed crafts and projects
- Learning how we can all help protect wildlife and wild places!

WWW.MARYLANDZOO.ORG/SUMMERCAMP

WHY SHOULD KIDS HAVE ALL THE FUN?

Sign up for our first-ever **Adult Summer Camp**, three days of Zoo Camp with a grown-up flair! Enjoy themed tours of the Zoo, make enrichment for animals, meet Animal Ambassadors, see animal husbandry in action, and learn what zoos are doing to protect wildlife and wild places.

General registration opens March 1, 2018. Space is limited!

Dates: June 26-28, 2018

Time: 9:00-2:00

Cost: \$275 for Zoo members; \$300 for non-members



BUNNY BONANZOO.

PRESENTED BY *Mary Sue*
CANDIES

ENTER TO WIN A \$250 MARYLAND COLLEGE INVESTMENT PLAN AT BUNNY BONANZOO!

It's always fun for the kids to take home the candy they collect at Bunny Bonanzoo, but this year, families may also have the chance to take home a \$250 Maryland College Investment Plan, courtesy of Maryland 529!

Stop by the Maryland 529 information table to learn how easy it can be to save for college through the Maryland 529 plans. Spin the college savings wheel for some cool prizes and enter a raffle to win a \$250 Maryland College Investment Plan. One lucky winner will be drawn each day. And if you're not a raffle winner, you may still be eligible to receive a \$250 contribution to the Maryland College Investment Plan from the State through the Save4College State Contribution Program.

Learn more about the Program and how to apply by visiting maryland529.com/MDMatch250. Certain restrictions apply; visit maryland529.com for more information and complete raffle rules.

Please read the Maryland College Investment Plan Disclosure Statement carefully before deciding to enroll. The Maryland College Investment Plan Disclosure Statement provides investment objectives, risks, expenses and costs, fees, and other information you should consider carefully before investing. If you or your beneficiary live outside of Maryland, you should compare the Maryland College Investment Plan to any college savings program offered by your home state or your beneficiary's home state, which may offer state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan.

Maryland529



CONTACT THE ZOO

General Information
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Events
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Membership
(443) 552-5281

Adopt an Animal
(443) 552-5280

Development
(443) 552-5290

Education
(443) 552-5300

Human Resources
(443) 552-5310

Volunteers
(443) 552-5266

Group Sales
(443) 552-5277

Visitor Services
(443) 552-5256

Gift Shop
(443) 552-5315

Rentals
(443) 552-5277

Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Zoo is open daily during the months of March through December and Friday-Monday during the months of January and February. The Zoo is closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

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The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

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